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ON PAGE A-13

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Letters

A Film Maker's Documentation

Pat Dowell's interview with Saul Landau (April 24) demonstrates some evidence for why Landau might be Washington's "least generally appreciated" documentary film maker. I am referring to Landau's story of a trip to "Thunderbird College" (sic) in Arizona.

I do not know anything about the incident he describes, but to quote Landau, "It seems this was a place that was set up by the CIA and major multinational corporations to train foreign students to serve as executives overseas."

As a Thunderbird alumnus, I find that statement amazing. First, it implies CIA influence in Thunderbird's admissions and placement offices. If so, such influence has escaped the notice of thousands of students through the course of four decades.

Second, the school's founding predates that of the CIA by nearly two years. Did Landau actually mean to say that the CIA "was set up by" Thunderbird?

Third, the proper name is the Thunderbird School, or officially, the American Graduate School of International Management located at the old Thunderbird air field in Glendale, Ariz. The school has a good reputation for work fostering international trade and understanding throughout the world.

If Landau wants more appreciation in Washington, he might consider work in fiction. He does not seem suited for documentaries.

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